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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **U.S. 31 KOKOMO CORRIDOR PROJECT WEB SITE IS OPERATING**

**KOKOMO, IN** – People seeking information about the Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) U.S. 31 Kokomo Corridor Project, an extensive analysis that will lead to transportation improvements along U.S. 31 in Kokomo and Howard County, can now start with the project's Web site: [www.us31kokomo.com](http://www.us31kokomo.com).

The site, which will grow as the project proceeds, is a source for information about the various phases of the federally required analysis that will produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). INDOT selected Parsons, an international environmental firm with an office in Carmel, to conduct the study.

"We are eager to work with the community to find the best alternatives to meet the transportation needs of this important area of the state," said INDOT Commissioner J. Bryan Nicol. "The Web site is an excellent resource, offering two-way communications between the public and the project study team."

The Web site includes background information on the project, a timetable, a map of the study area, answers to frequently asked questions and details about the public involvement program. It also provides addresses, telephone numbers and an e-mail link so members of the public can offer their thoughts and suggestions.

The U.S. 31 Kokomo Corridor Project will evaluate various alternatives for improving a 12-mile stretch of the roadway from about two miles south of S.R. 26 to about one mile north of the northern junction of U.S. 35. The southern limit of the project extends approximately one mile into Tipton County.

U.S. 31 is a four-lane, divided highway that is the only major north-south route through the City of Kokomo and Howard County. INDOT is examining ways to improve traffic flow and safety along several segments of the highway which links Indianapolis and South Bend. The Parsons team is nearing the end of a similar analysis in Hamilton County.

The project team will spend much of the next few months gathering and documenting traffic, accident and socioeconomic data along the existing U.S. 31 corridor. This information will be used to develop the foundation for the study, the Purpose and Need Statement.

The Purpose and Need Statement defines the transportation problem to be solved, provides data to support the need and describes the factors to be considered in evaluating alternatives. It serves as a guide to developing alternatives and establishing criteria for choosing among alternatives.

Public involvement is a key component of the project. By sharing information, listening to community concerns and ideas and maintaining open communications, INDOT and the project team believe they can best identify transportation solutions that have broad support.

Two public involvement meetings and a formal public hearing will be held as part of the study. The first open house meeting will be held this spring following publication of the Draft Purpose and Need Statement.

A Community Advisory Committee representing various community interests will be formed to advise the project team of community concerns and provide initial feedback on alternatives.

Three newsletters also will be published at key milestones during the project.

To get on the project mailing list to receive newsletters, or to submit a comment, the following methods are available:

- Web site: [www.us31kokomo.com](http://www.us31kokomo.com). From the site, you can complete a comment form and submit it online
- Call Toll Free: (866) 821-6301
- Fax: (317) 569-3680
- Write: US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project  
Parsons  
11405 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 100  
Carmel, IN 46032

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Contact: Jonathan Wallace, INDOT Office of Communications, (317) 234-1213  
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